

3rd BCT Brings Toys for Iraq Youth

By Staff Sgt. Susan German
122nd MPAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq - Pick up any child's favorite stuffed toy and there is usually a story behind how he came to own it. Keeping small mementos which remind us of a special event or time in our life or bring us comfort are a common practice which doesn't diminish as one crosses cultural borders.

A delivery of goodwill came in the form of stuffed animals; there were several boxes of Beanie Babies and other small stuffed toys received through the chaplain's office at the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, intended to be distributed to local Iraqi kids.

Soldiers from A Company, 1st Battalion, 153rd Infantry Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, and Detachment 1, 1st Battalion, 206th Field Artillery Regiment, attached to Company A, 1-153rd, delivered the stuffed animals, along with school supplies, to children at the Ayn Al Mali Kindergarten in the Babil neighborhood of Baghdad Nov. 20.

As the convoy arrived at the school, a scruffy looking dog walked along the roofline, barking as the Soldiers approached but otherwise posing no threat as he peered at them from his lofty vantage point. Soldiers maintained their guard on the street running in front of the school.

While other Soldiers set

up the distribution point inside the school's lobby, the children sang the alphabet song; reciting the entire English alphabet flawlessly, and then sang several Arabic songs for their guests. They clapped their hands and pumped their small fists in the air, acting out the words to the songs.

When it came time to hand out the stuffed animals, the older kids came forward confidently as the teachers assisted the younger children lining up in the school's lobby, urging each one forward to receive a stuffed animal from the Soldiers.

As a light infantry unit, Soldiers of 1-153 are accustomed to performing infantry type tasks, said 1st Lt. Ronnie Denton the executive officer and acting commander of A Company.

"It's been different than what we ever expected," the Hatfield, Ark. native said. He said they've learned to adjust fire during this tour in Iraq and have been conducting civil military operations missions along with their more traditional raids and patrols.

Denton credits their level of patience and the experience many bring from civilian jobs back at home to their duties in Iraq.

"Right now it seems to be working, we've had very little activity in our area in the last few months," he said. "We're very pleased with what we're doing."

Other school supplies,



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Memphis, Tenn. native Staff Sgt. Scott Turner, a forward observer and fire support noncommissioned officer with 1st Battalion, 206th Field Artillery Regiment, offers a stuffed frog to any interested takers at the Ayn Al Mali Kindergarten in Baghdad Nov. 20.

including pens, pencils and crayons, were donated by the Valley View Missionary Baptist Church in Jonesboro, Ark., through Capt. David Hastings, the battalion's fire support officer.

After the toys were all passed out, the headmistress of the school gave the Soldiers a tour; through classrooms, a small library with numerous American books, and past a courtyard "zoo" with several chickens and a rabbit.

The visits to the schools are intended to improve relationships, as well as communications, with community members.

"The kids go home and say U.S. Soldiers gave me this; hopefully the people on the street will stop U.S. Soldiers [to give them] any intelligence they might have about insurgents in the area," said 1st Lt. Samuel Wigley, fire support officer, Det. 1, 1-206th FA Bn.

Division Medics Teach Troops Vitals

By Spc. Al Barrus
122nd MPAD

BAGHDAD - "Who here doesn't know what traumatic cardiopulmonary arrest is?" asks the instructor. No hands rise, and the instructor is pleased.

Who does know what it means? A medic does.

Making sure medics know how to recognize and treat (and pronounce) such injuries as penetrating thoracic trauma, and retroperitoneal hemorrhaging is part of the 32-hour Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support class routinely given to Task Force Baghdad medics.

"This course is very vital for pre-hospital care," said Sgt. 1st Class Richshell Lott, an instructor in the division surgeon section. "These people are the first responders to go to an injury or illness. This course gives them the basic skills to properly manage that casualty and refer them to the proper medical facility."

While some of the 12 medics are taking the class as a refresher, it's also a way for old generation medics to get on par with the Army's new combat medic standard, he said.

The course covered some advanced paramedical skills, such as performing different types of resuscitation and learning which intravenous fluids to administer. It primarily focused on identifying injuries, and which medical care level a patient needs to arrive at, Lott said.

The new combat medic military occupational specialty in the Army is designat-



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Maj. Gary Aspera, (left) 1st Cavalry Division senior physician assistant and guest instructor, teaches the resuscitation section of the pre-hospital trauma life support course while Sgt. 1st Class Richshell Lott, a full-time medical instructor, goes through the slides.

ed 91W, and includes pre-hospital trauma life support in initial specialty training. The old generation of medics, formerly known as 91B, are now designated 91W-Y2, Lott said.

"We are looking to drop that Y2 identifier, and making them full-fledged 91Ws," the Mililani, Hawaii, native said.

Lott said this course is especially important to medics performing their duties in a combat zone.

"You need to know how to identify life threatening situations wherever you are

trying to treat a casualty," he explained. "You need to identify how that person is suffering. You need to be able to manage the [medical] problem. You need to [ensure] they get transported, or call in a (medical evacuation) so [the patient] can get to the proper facility."

Teaching the course is not only a fun experience, but fulfilling on a grander scale, Lott said.

"I like the personal gratification I get when I can see the students understand what we've been teaching them," he said.

Useful Iraqi Words/Phrases

There are insects in our room.
hunaak Hasharaat fee ghurfatnaa

Wednesday
High: 59
Low: 37



Thursday
High: 59
Low: 37



Friday
High: 61
Low: 39



Weather information provided by 1CD Staff Weather Office (SWO)

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News Notes

School Wins Military Battle

PHILADELPHIA (AP)-- A federal appeals court on Monday barred the Defense Department from withholding funds from colleges and universities that deny access to military recruiters. The 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said a decade-old federal law which allows withholding the funds infringes on the free speech rights of schools that wish to limit on-campus recruiting in response to the military's ban on homosexuals.

Optimist Club Calls it Quits

QUAKERTOWN, Pa. (AP)-- It's a glum day for optimists. After 24 years of community service, the Quakertown Optimists Club is calling it quits. They're holding their last meeting on Thursday, citing declining interest. "I feel sad," club president Bernard Kensky said. Kensky said that fewer club members were taking part in sporting and scholastic activities for children, and fewer kids were getting involved in club events. The Optimist Club is an international organization that formed in 1920. The Quakertown chapter started in 1980 with 35 members, but dropped to 15 members this year. "Four or five people would come to meetings and only two or three people would help out with the activities," Kensky said. "I don't know why people stopped."



Austin American-Statesman

Butch Meyer relaxes Monday on the north shore of Town Lake near Austin, Texas as rushing waters from recent heavy rains and flooding pass by. A slow camera shutter speed was used to further accentuate the movement of the water.

Black Hawk Crash Kills Seven in Texas

BRUCEVILLE-EDDY, Texas (AP)-- Living close to President Bush's ranch, the Eickes have become accustomed to helicopters buzzing their house. But this time, the sounds were different.

"It sounded like a big tree cracking, like something from Paul Bunyan," Delia Eicke said. "Then I heard the explosion." Her husband Rock added: "I knew it was the tower."

An Army helicopter hit a web of support wires on a TV transmission tower in the darkness of early Monday before going down in a fiery crash, killing all seven people aboard. Among the victims were a brigadier general and six other soldiers, all from the 4th Infantry Division.

The UH-60 Black Hawk was headed to check out equipment being readied for use in Iraq, said Lt. Col. Jonathan Withington, spokesman for the Fort Hood-based 4th Infantry Division.

The helicopter, bound for the Red River Army Depot in Texarkana, went down in a field about 30 miles northeast of Fort Hood. The fog was so thick when emergency crews arrived that they could not see more than halfway up the tower, authorities said.

Victims' names were not immediately released, but a military official at the home of Brig. Gen. Charles B. Allen on Monday night confirmed Allen was among the dead.

The parents of Capt. Todd Christmas also were notified that their son was a crash victim, said Patti Goetsch, a family friend who answered the phone.

Monday's crash occurred at the highest



AP

Bystanders observe the wreckage of a military helicopter that crashed Monday, Nov. 29, 2004, near Bruceville-Eddy, Texas.

point in McLennan County, with 30 different towers within a five-mile radius of where the helicopter went down, Sheriff's Deputy Shannon Mitchell said.

Rock Eicke, who lives about a quarter-mile from the scene, called 911 immediately afterward. The helicopter and grass around it were still burning.

The main part of the fuselage went down in a field about 200 to 300 yards from the tower, McLennan County constable Ken Brown said.

The helicopter hit several wires stabilizing the broadcasting tower owned by Waco-Temple-Killeen television station KXXV, said Jerry Pursley, the station's general manager. The tower itself was not hit, he said.

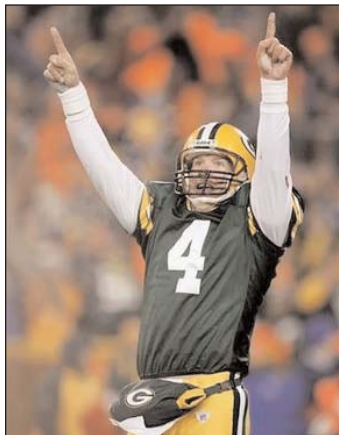
Packers Rout Rams on MNF

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP)-- The governor proclaimed it "Brett Favre Day," and the night belonged to the quarterback, too.

Favre celebrated his 200th straight regular-season start with three touchdown passes and yet another record in the Green Bay Packers' 45-17 rout of the St. Louis Rams on Monday night.

Favre topped 20 touchdown passes for the 11th straight season, breaking a tie with Dan Marino on a 7-yard toss to tight end Bubba Franks in the second quarter. He also threw touchdown passes to Javon Walker and Donald Driver as the Packers (7-4) got two defensive touchdowns and won their sixth straight to keep pace with Minnesota atop the NFC North.

Favre didn't have his co-star, Ahman Green, who was out with injured ribs. But Najeh Davenport came up with a strong imitation, gaining 178 yards on 19 carries in his first NFL start even though he had two sore hamstrings.



AP

Packers quarterback Brett Favre reacts after throwing a 10-yard touchdown pass to Javon Walker Monday, Nov. 29.

Davenport said after the fifth-highest single-game rushing total in franchise history that he was just glad to be a part of Favre's memorable milestone.

"Brett Favre is unbelievable. It's a great honor to play with him," Davenport said. "Who knows how long he's

going to be around ... He's like an old man, but he's young at heart."

Favre's record streak of starts moved to 219, counting playoffs, and is almost 100 more than Ron Jaworski's previous NFL quarterback mark of 123.

Favre took over for an injured Don Majkowski on Sept. 27, 1992. Since then, 11 of his backups have gone on to start for another team. Last week, Eli Manning became the 178th quarterback to have started a game in the NFL since Favre last came off the bench.

The Rams have had 13 quarterbacks in that span.

"Considering the position he plays and the number of injuries at quarterback around the league, I think it's quite a feat," Packers president Bob Harlan said. "He can be on crutches in the middle off the week and he always runs out there on Sunday."

Favre improved to 37-1 at home in temperatures 34 degrees and lower.

ACC Ties Record With Seven Top 25 Teams

(AP)-- Virginia moved into The Associated Press' men's college basketball Top 25 Monday, giving the Atlantic Coast Conference a record-tying seven teams in the poll.

Wake Forest extended its lead at No. 1, the Cavaliers were No. 24, and there were five other conference schools in between, matching the feat accomplished twice by the Big Ten and once by the ACC.

The Demon Deacons (5-0) used their Preseason NIT championship to pull away from No. 2 Kansas (2-0). Wake Forest had 40 first-place votes and 1,737 points from the national media panel, while the Jayhawks were No. 1 on 18 ballots and had 1,678 points.

Last week, Wake Forest received 25 first-place votes, one fewer than Kansas, and

had 19 more points.

The other ranked ACC teams were No. 4 Georgia Tech, No. 9 North Carolina, No. 10 Duke, No. 12 Maryland and No. 16 North Carolina State.

The Big Ten had seven teams ranked for one week in January 1993, and for four weeks in January 1999. The ACC did it for two weeks in December 1997.

No. 3 Syracuse and Georgia Tech switched places from last week. The Orange (5-0) had four first-place votes, while Georgia Tech (3-0), which beat Illinois-Chicago 60-59 and Arkansas-Little Rock 79-54, was No. 1 on seven ballots.

Illinois, Oklahoma State, Connecticut and Kentucky held spots five through eight from last week. Illinois got one first-place vote, Oklahoma State had two.



AP

Wake Forest extended its lead at No. 1 in the AP men's basketball poll.

North Carolina, which won the Maui Invitational, moved up from 11th, while Duke dropped one spot.

Michigan State was 11th, followed by Maryland, Pittsburgh, Washington, Mississippi State, and North Carolina.

In Brief

Akroyd, Belushi Open New Club

CLEVELAND (AP)-- Jim Belushi and Dan Aykroyd arrived on Harley motorcycles and also



hammered it up with a performance of "Sweet Home Chicago" at the opening of the newest House of Blues in a renovated storefront. More than 2,000 people turned out for Sunday night's gala opening. Belushi and Aykroyd arrived wearing black leather coats and escorted Mayor Jane Campbell into the concert and restaurant complex.

Police Have ID on Chair Thrower

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. (AP)-- Police believe they know the identity of the man who threw a chair in a brawl between players and fans during the Indiana-Detroit game on Nov. 19. Police did not identify the man Monday, though they said he is a 35-year-old Pistons' season-ticket holder. He has not been interviewed and is not in custody. Police Lt. James Manning said police have met with the man's attorney. The fight among spectators and players broke out near the end of the game after an on-court dispute over a foul. A fan hurled a drink at Indiana's Ron Artest, who then charged into the stands and began beating a man he thought had done it. Other players and fans soon joined the brawl.